

vocal minority of extreme environmental groups.

Mr. Speaker, the President's decision yesterday is a giant leap backwards on a road to energy independence, effectively saying "no" to the creation of over 40,000 American jobs and lower energy prices for businesses and families.

Mr. Speaker, President Obama had the opportunity to stand up and show true leadership, but unfortunately, he chose to, once again, hide behind political motives.

□ 1215

#### ECONOMIC GROWTH FOR NEVADA

(Ms. TITUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, just this morning, Nevada Attorney General Laxalt testified before the House Judiciary Committee, claiming that the implementation of DAPA and extension of DACA would cause undue economic hardship for our State. Well, I would like to see his evidence, because data show that granting administrative relief to qualified undocumented immigrants would actually contribute to economic growth.

Thanks to these executive actions, the legal workforce will expand, and average wages for all workers will increase by \$170 a year. The Federal deficit will be reduced by \$25 billion, and GDP will grow from \$90 billion to \$210 billion over the next decade. Furthermore, it is estimated that expanding DACA and DAPA will increase Nevada's GDP from \$700 million to \$1.7 billion over the next 10 years and lead to \$21 million in additional tax revenue for the State over the next 5 years.

So, in short, General, not implementing the President's actions is not only morally indefensible, but also economically foolish. And, I might add, holding up DHS funding for this purpose is a shameful political act that puts Americans at risk.

#### M-855 AMMO BAN

(Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to stand up for the rights of law-abiding Americans to protect their homes, and I am standing in opposition to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives' unreasonable proposal to ban entire classes of ammunition.

As an American, I personally use this ammunition to defend my home and my family, and that is my constitutional right. I find it ironic that the President of the United States continues to say, well, if we would just arm the people of other countries, then ISIS wouldn't exist, while he uses each and every means possible to violate our Second Amendment right to protect ourselves.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to set the record straight, and I look forward to meeting with the ATF and discussing their budget and making sure that they don't have the legal authority or the funding to take away Americans' constitutional rights to keep and bear arms and ammo.

#### DHS SHUTDOWN

(Ms. ESTY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, in 3 days, the Department of Homeland Security will needlessly run out of funding—yes, 3 days. Shutting down the Department of Homeland Security will jeopardize local disaster relief grants. It will stall critical safety training for firefighters and first responders and will force thousands of Border Patrol agents, Active Duty Coast Guard servicemembers, and airport security screeners across the country to work without pay.

House Republicans are threatening the safety and security of our Nation and our families by refusing to pass a clean security funding bill, instead, pushing for anti-immigration amendments. This is unwise, this is unnecessary, and this is wrong. We should not play partisan politics when our Nation's security is on the line.

We must pass a funding bill that does not include harmful provisions, so that our Nation remains safe and secure. That is why I ask unanimous consent that the House bring up H.R. 861, the clean Department of Homeland Security funding bill that would keep the Department open so it can carry out its mission of keeping the American people safe.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair previously advised, that request cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.

#### STRENGTHENING TAX-FREE 529 COLLEGE SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

(Mr. MARCHANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 529, a bill I have co-sponsored that strengthens tax-free 529 college savings accounts. The cost of higher ed has increased by more than 500 percent since 1985, yet the President recently proposed a tax hike on 529 savings of students and middle class families.

There is a big difference between being able to afford college and being able to pay for it. The 529s help bridge that gap for millions of working Americans who make too little to cover tuition but just enough to be ineligible for financial aid.

Our Nation's long-term prosperity depends on our ability to prepare the next generation for success. Let's start now by passing H.R. 529.

#### DHS SHUTDOWN

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to demand that a clean, straightforward Department of Homeland Security funding bill be brought to the House floor for a vote immediately. After today, there are only 2 more days until the entire Department of Homeland Security is shut down, 2 days until the men and women who work to protect our national security stop receiving a paycheck, 2 days until the doors are shut at the Department responsible for ensuring America's safety.

If my colleagues on the other side of the aisle want to debate the merits of immigration reform, then bring an immigration bill to the floor. We would welcome that debate. We are ready to work on a comprehensive bill to fix a broken system. In the meantime, don't play games with our national security.

Again, I urge the House leadership to bring a clean funding bill. It is H.R. 861. We need to keep the Department of Homeland Security open so it can carry out its mission of keeping the American people safe, and we need to be able to move forward to work on the pressing matters facing our country.

#### DHS SHUTDOWN

(Mr. DOLD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, the American people expect us to deliver solutions and to fix problems; they expect us to act responsibly and govern. We can do this by working together and averting a shutdown at the Department of Homeland Security.

Let me be clear: shutting down the Department of Homeland Security should not be an option, and I am adamantly opposed to letting this happen.

Our first and foremost responsibility, Mr. Speaker, is to protect our Nation. Ever since the attacks of September 11, 2001, the need for the Department of Homeland Security became clear, and the Department of Homeland Security has proven vital to keeping the American people safe amid an ongoing war against terror.

Terror threats do not just go away until Washington is able to come to a compromise. There is certainly broad disagreement, Mr. Speaker, in this country over the President's executive actions. By shutting down DHS, it only makes us more vulnerable to attacks. It is absolutely the wrong approach to addressing this disagreement. There is no room for political brinkmanship when the security of the American public is at stake.

#### SELMA VOTING RIGHTS

(Mr. CARNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 50th anniversary of the voting rights march from Selma to Montgomery and to urge my colleagues to pass voting rights legislation in this Congress.

In 1960, there were only 66,000 African Americans registered to vote in Alabama. In 1965, there were 15,000 Black residents of Dallas County, Alabama, where Selma is located, but fewer than 200 were registered to vote. African Americans who attempted to vote faced intimidation, discrimination, and worse.

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the unrelenting efforts of heroes like our colleague from Georgia, JOHN LEWIS, helped correct these injustices. But the fight isn't over. State legislation, ballot initiatives, and court cases across the country in recent years have jeopardized the voter registration protections that JOHN LEWIS and others fought so hard for.

We need to stay vigilant, and we need new legislation today. As we celebrate Black History Month, let's recognize how far we have come. Let's pass voting rights legislation in this Congress for the good of the country.

#### KEYSTONE PIPELINE VETO

(Mr. MCCLINTOCK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, for more than 6 years, the President has called for taxpayer-funded infrastructure projects. In the first year of his administration, he squandered nearly \$1 trillion on so-called shovel-ready projects that he later joked weren't shovel ready at all. Mr. Speaker, \$1 trillion is \$8,000 taken from every family in America, on average. That is what we spent. That is what he joked about when it turned out we got very little for it.

Now along comes the Keystone pipeline. It promises \$8 billion of private investment at no cost to taxpayers. That major infrastructure project would have produced 42,000 construction-related jobs and, when finished, more than a half million barrels a day of Canadian crude oil entering the American economy. That is what he vetoed after it was sent to him with bipartisan votes out of both Houses.

He calls this middle class economics. The reality is it is a war on the middle class. And that is no joke.

#### DHS SHUTDOWN

(Mr. VEASEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the imminent danger our country faces in 3 days. Right now, Republicans have decided that it is more important to listen to the Tea

Party and their extremist views rather than funding the Department of Homeland Security.

And I don't want to hear this mess from Republicans about, oh, the workers are still going to get paid. Let me tell you something. We are talking about 250,000 essential employees that could go without pay—that are airport screeners and are doing important things like keeping us safe—and sending them to work without pay, where they don't know how they are going to make their car note; they don't know if they are going to be able to pay their mortgage or bring groceries home. That is putting America in danger.

We need to keep Homeland Security open. We need to stop playing this reckless game that the Republicans are putting us through because it is the duty of Congress to keep American families safe and govern responsibly.

Republicans need to realize that the only path through this is having us do a clean DHS bill. It is time for Republicans to join the 192 House Democrats that have already signed up. We need to do the right thing.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the House bring up H.R. 861, the clean Department of Homeland Security funding bill that would keep the Department open so it can carry out its mission of keeping the American people safe.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DOLD). As the Chair previously advised, that request cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.

#### ISIS

(Mr. STUTZMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STUTZMAN. Mr. Speaker, over the last several months, Islamic State has shown just how barbaric they can be. They are willing to kill and torture innocent people in the most savage ways to intimidate the United States and the civilized world. With the recent beheadings in the Middle East and the multiple shootings in Europe, it is very clear that terrorism is a problem that only continues to grow.

Islamic State might be the most well-trained, well-equipped, and well-financed terror group we have seen; and if an international coalition is not willing to stop them, no one will.

I have supported President Obama's use of airstrikes since they began several months ago to push back on Islamic State, and I still strongly believe that we should continue these strikes with our Arab partners.

Throughout our history, we have shown that we can overcome any obstacle and defeat any enemy if we are willing to stand up to it.

However, I have so far been disappointed that the President has asked for an Authorization for Use of Military Force without articulating a clear strategy on how to ultimately defeat

the enemy. If President Obama would present such a plan, I believe both Republicans and Democrats in both Chambers would stand with him and show the world that we are united in confronting this dangerous enemy.

I hope the President takes this opportunity to lead and unite the American people toward defeating our latest adversary in the war on terror.

#### DHS SHUTDOWN

(Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, there are only 3 days until the Department of Homeland Security shuts down, forcing more than 50,000 TSA airport security screeners and tens of thousands of Customs and Border Protection officers to work without pay. Many of these dedicated public servants work at Los Angeles International Airport, LAX, which is in my congressional district. They screen the passengers and examine the cargo to keep the airports secure.

LAX is the sixth busiest airport in the world and third busiest in the United States. In 2013, LAX served more than 66 million passengers and processed more than 1.9 million tons of cargo with a value of over \$91.6 billion.

The security of LAX is critical for the people of Los Angeles and the entire country, and the public servants who work hard every day to keep our airports safe deserve to be paid for the work that they do. Let's fund DHS now.

I ask unanimous consent that the House bring up H.R. 861, the clean Department of Homeland Security funding bill that would keep the Department open so it can carry out its mission of keeping the American people safe.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair previously advised, that request cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.

□ 1230

#### CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION

(Mr. BENISHEK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, today, as we consider many issues surrounding the education of our Nation's youth, I rise to draw attention to the importance of career technical education. Having raised five kids, I understand how access to quality learning is critical to ensuring that every child has an opportunity to achieve their potential.

That is why I have worked to support career and technical education and teach students the relevant skills they need to get a good-paying job. Often referred to as vocational, or voc-ed, CTE